directed all the States to confiscate the unregistered and unlicensed ultrasound machines being used in all the clinics; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Centre and all the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 29.1.2002 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 301/2000 had, *inter alia*, directed that the concerned State Governments/UTs to take immediate action to seal and seize the ultrasound machines using by those Clinics who have not registered under the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

(b) As on 31.3.2004, about 213 machines have been sealed and seized and 407 complaints have been filed in the Courts/Police against violators of the law.

Trials of New Drugs

1109. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in our country trials of new drugs can only be done on human beings with the specific approval of competent authority;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are instances where such trials for cancer drugs and other diseases are being done without prior approval of the competent authority;

(c) whether Drugs Controller or any such authority has ever enquired into such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken against the accused?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir. According to rule-122DA of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder the approval from competent authority is required to undertake clinical trial with New Drugs.

(b) to (d) Instances of any alleged clinical trial of New Drug without prior approval of competent authority are duly investigated by the office of the DCG(I).

In an instance of a media report alleging clinical trial of an anti-cancer drug, Letrozole by some doctors for the treatment of infertility of women, investigation, including examination of the issue by an expert committee has revealed that the matter was related to off-label use of Letrozole by some doctors for the treatment of infertility and was based on information regarding similar use published in the International medical Journals.

Another alleged incident pertaining to illegal tests of women in West Bengal using Erythromycin as a Contraceptive, between August 99 to October, 2002, is under investigation with Deputy Commissioner Enforcement Branch, Kolkata.

Shortage of Antibiotics in Safdarjung Hospital

1110. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been shortage of essential antibiotics required for serious ailments in the Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi.

(b) whether he has made a personal visit to the hospital;

(c) if so, the deficiencies, drawbacks, irregularities etc. observed in the functioning of the hospital during his visit; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those responsible for the malfunctioning of the hospital and to improve its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) There is no shortage of essential antibiotics required for serious ailments in the Safdarjung Hospital. Various antibiotics including the latest 4th generation Cephalosporin group of Antibiotics are available in the Hospital.

(b) to (d) The Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare visited the Safdarjung Hospital on 18-6-2004 and inspected various services and facilities provided by the Hospital. He gave directions to the hospital authorities to take appropriate action for maintenance of punctuality, cleanliness drive, reduction in waiting period of the patients, etc. which are being attended to.